

The Canada Goose.—Mr. James P. Howley, in his article entitled 'The Canada Goose (*Bernicla canadensis*),' in the October 'Auk', p. 310, lines 33 and 34, states that they "require six months to mature." This is contrary to my observations regarding the breeding of this bird. My notes, however, are entirely confined to their breeding while in a state of captivity. During the last week in May, 1879, I saw some goslings, just hatched, belonging to Capt. Lane, of Shinnecock Bay, Long Island, N. Y. August 16, I saw them again and was unable to distinguish them from the rest of the flock by their size or plumage. The present season Capt. Lane raised nineteen Geese. I saw the flock daily from June 26 to July 25, and during the latter part of the time the young birds were hardly distinguishable from the old ones, except by the solicitude the parents displayed for the safety of their progeny. Capt. Lane has had remarkable success in breeding Canada Geese in confinement, and has kindly furnished me with the following information regarding their habits during the incubating season: "They make their nests of dried grass, raising them about twelve inches from the ground. They feather them when they begin to lay, which is about May 1. None lay until three years old; the first season four eggs are laid, five the second season, and when older six and seven. A goose never has more than one mate. The gander never sits on the nest, but while the goose is sitting never leaves her. The time of incubation is four weeks. The young when hatched are strong enough to take care of themselves, that is, they eat grass and walk and swim as soon as they get dry. They will eat meal on the second day. They are in the down four weeks, and are fully grown in six weeks. When swimming, the gander goes ahead, the young next, and the goose follows, invariably."—WM. DUTCHER. *New York City.*

The Eider Ducks of the New England Coast.—In view of the general confusion and ignorance respecting New England Water Birds, it may be not amiss to call attention to the fact that two forms of the Eider Duck are found regularly in winter on our coast. Of these Dresser's Eider (*Somateria dresseri*) is the commoner, as well as probably the only one which breeds within our limits. The other, *Somateria mollissima* proper, is much less numerous, but still far from rare or accidental. It doubtless reaches Massachusetts, but I do not remember to have seen specimens from any point south of the mouth of the Penobscot River, Maine. The best authorities now regard *dresseri* as specifically distinct from *mollissima*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The White Pelican on Lake Ontario.—In the last number of 'The Auk' (p. 395) Mr. McIlwraith records a visit of five White Pelicans to the west end of Lake Ontario, March 13, 1884. The birds had evidently spent some time in the neighborhood, for I learn from Capt. Thos. Campbell, Keeper of Burlington Bay Lighthouse, that four Pelicans were seen there February 5-7, 1884.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, N. J.*

The Common Cormorant off Boston Harbor.—On the 22d of September, 1884, while shooting on the 'Graves,' a dry reef a few miles off the entrance to Boston Harbor, I secured a Common Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). It was the only one seen, the rest of the Cormorants being *P. dilophus*, and at once attracted my companion's notice by its large size and whitish underparts. Inquiries made of local collectors and fishermen failed to elicit any proof of its occurrence at this point, although 'way north' they 'saw them often.'—WM. A. JEFFRIES, *Boston, Mass.*

The Common Cormorant in Massachusetts.—Although several recent authors have characterized *Phalacrocorax carbo* as a common fall or winter visitor to this State, the specimen recorded by Mr. Jeffries in the preceding paragraph is the only authentic Massachusetts one of which I have any present knowledge. Very probably there are a few others scattered about in collections, but it is nearly certain that the bird, so far from being common, is extremely rare here. Along the coast of Maine, however, it winters regularly and in large numbers, especially at some small islands near the mouth of the Penobscot River, whence I have received several specimens through the kindness of Mr. Manly Hardy. This gentleman writes me that *P. dilophus* is not found there in winter, nor have I any record of its wintering in Massachusetts, although it is a common spring and fall migrant here.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Rare Summer Residents in Kansas.—On the 26th of June, 1884, at Fort Wallace, on and about a pond made by damming the Smoky Hill River, I saw four pairs of American Coots (*Fulica americana*), six pairs of Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*), one pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*), a female Gadwall (*Chauliasmus streperus*), and a small flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*). From the actions of the birds I think their breeding grounds were on the small, bog-like islands, covered by a thick growth of grass and weeds, and also flags in places. The next day near Ellis, on Big Creek, I saw a female Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*.)

On July 5 following, near Lawrence, in an old channel of the Kansas River, I saw several pairs of American Coots, one pair of Mallards (*Anas boschas*), and, skimming over and about the water, a Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon lariformis surinamensis*), and, at the edge of the timber bordering the slough, an Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax acadicus*), a Black-and-white Creeper (*Mniotilta varia*), feeding its young, and a pair of Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca caerulea*), with three young birds following them in their flights, clamorous for food; and on the 11th of the same month, at Topeka, a male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Zamelodia melanocephala*).

Both of the Grosbeaks mentioned are quite common in the western and middle parts of the State, the Blue breeding as far east as Manhattan. Their occurrence east of that locality is rare. Prior to this I had not observed the Black-headed east of Ellis, but Professor D. E. Lantz writes